

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application. The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

U.S. Pat. 5,385,821 (O'Dell), discloses an apparatus for portable, perfusion for long-term extracorporeal preservation of living tissue. FIG. 9 of O'Dell "shows a section through cold storage unit 94, which is constructed of a material having a high insulative index, such as styrofoam. The unit is divided into two primary chambers, first chamber 96 and second chamber 100. ... First chamber 96 is designed to receive tissue preservation device 98, which fits snugly within pocket 108."(O'Dell, col. 8, l. 36-46). Thus, in O'Dell, the first chamber 96 constitutes an organ chamber in the cooling box 94 for receiving the tissue preservation device 98 containing a donor organ in preservative fluid. Access to the first chamber 96 is via a lid 114, which has a side facing the organ chamber (first chamber 96). O'Dell does indeed disclose a perfusion pump (gas pumping device 32 in combination with membrane 26 and valves 23, 24 – see Fig. 1).

However, in O'Dell the perfusion pump is mounted to a lid of the receptacle containing the donor organ and not to the lid of the cooling box 94 or of the chamber containing the receptacle for receiving the organ.

Furthermore, O'Dell lacks a connector detachably connected to the lid (of the cooling box 94) on the side of the lid which operatively faces the organ chamber (the chamber 96 designed to receive the receptacle 98).

O'Dell also lacks the feature that the connector and the package are arranged for removably and sealedly fastening the connector to the package and the features that the connector is provided with passages, one or more connecting pieces for connection with a donor organ in the receptacle and extending through one or more of the passages and with one or more fluid pipes connected with the at least one perfusion pump.

In view of these differences, the claimed apparatus is clearly new and non-obvious compared with the apparatus disclosed by O'Dell.

In the claimed apparatus, the connector detachably connected to the lid, arranged for removably and sealedly fastening the connector to the package and provided with passages, one or more connecting pieces for connection with a donor organ in the package and extending through one or more of the passages and with one or more fluid pipes connected with the at least one perfusion pump, allows to quickly connect and position disposable or at least sterilized parts to the organ and relative to re-usable parts of the apparatus, including the perfusion pump. The prior art contains no hint to removably connect and position disposable parts to the re-usable parts including a lid and a perfusion pump by removably connecting a connector to a lid of an organ chamber in the cooling box, the connector being arranged for sealed connection to a package for containing the donor organ and the connector being provided with passages, one or more connecting pieces for connection with a donor organ in the package and extending through one or more of the passages and with one or more fluid pipes connected with the at least one perfusion pump.

Bearing in mind that O'Dell teaches to circulate the perfusate 16 via the chamber 10 in which the organ 18 is arranged, it would also have been contrary to the teaching of O'Dell to arrange the organ 18 in a package in the chamber 10 since this would have blocked the perfusate circulation. In view of these considerations, the claimed apparatus is not obvious in view of the prior art.

In view of the present amendments, it is now believed that the claims define over the prior art and that accordingly the application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. If any further fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. VOB-39612.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 10-23-09